

[Translation]

Diabetes

*311. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the incidence of diabetes is increasing alarmingly in the country at present;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the effective steps taken by the Government to check the disease;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch a campaign for awareness about this disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) No reliable nationwide data is available on the incidence of Diabetes.

(b) to (d) The 9th Plan allocation for the Department has not yet been finalised.

An amount of Rs. 1 crore has been allocated under this Programme for the year 1997-98 for carrying out awareness and other activities related with this disease.

[English]

Drug Research Programme for AIDS/HIV

*312. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the drug research programmes carried out in India for the treatment of AIDS/HIV;

(b) the details of financial assistance provided by the Government for the purpose;

(c) whether any research is being sponsored by the Government to find Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic/Unani cure for AIDS in Government/Private Institutions; and

(d) the steps taken to encourage research on finding a cure of AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (d) To promote and encourage research on finding a cure for AIDS, Indian Council of Medical Research has set up an 'Expert Group' to critically examine proposals on research under various systems of Medicine. The Council has recently established facilities at National AIDS Research Institute, Pune to study anti-retroviral properties of some traditional medicines for HIV infection. These studies have just been initiated. Indian Council of Medical Research has allocated Rs. 6.42 lacs for this facility.

Research in the field of drug treatment of HIV/AIDS is being taken up in various systems of medicines in our country.

Allopathic System of Medicine

In Maharashtra three drug regime trials of reverse transcriptase inhibitors have been undertaken at AIDS Research and Control Centre, Mumbai in collaboration with Government of Maharashtra. The preliminary findings show an increase in CD 4 counts. The final outcome of the study is awaited.

Homoeopathic System of Medicine

The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy has undertaken a research study since 1989 to evaluate the role of homoeopathic medicine. The study is being carried out at the Regional Research Institute of Homoeopathy, Mumbai and clinical research unit of Homoeopathy, Chennai.

The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy has also carried out an independent randomized placebo controlled trial of homoeopathic medicines in HIV infection at Regional Research Institute of Homoeopathy, Mumbai. The final outcome of this study is awaited. The Governing Body of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy has recently approved establishment of Central Research Institute of Homoeopathy exclusively for research in HIV/AIDS.

The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy have spent Rs. 67.89 lacs since 1989. This includes Rs. 25.25 lacs provided by the National AIDS Control Organisation during 1995-96.

Research on Siddha Drugs

Research on the role of Siddha drugs in the management of HIV/AIDS is carried out at Government Hospital of Thoracic Medicine, Tambaram, Chennai. But the final outcome of these studies is still awaited. Funds to the tune of Rs. 8 lacs for carrying out this trial has been provided by NACO.

[Translation]

Hepatitis

*313. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the types of Hepatitis detected in the country;

(b) whether the deadly Hepatitis epidemic is spreading in the country rapidly;

(c) if so, the number of persons affected and died due to this disease during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Government are unable to procure the vaccine used world wide for the treatment of this disease as it is very expensive in India; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken to check the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Viral Hepatitis of types A, B, C, D, E & G have been detected in the country. The endemicity

in the vulnerable pockets of the population has not shown a spread of the disease in epidemic proportions.

(b) and (c) According to available data collected by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, the number of persons reported to have been infected and died due to Viral Hepatitis (all types) during the last three years is given below :-

Year	No. of Persons infected	No. of Persons died
1994	98880	1183
1995	98940	943
1996	116031	799

(d) and (e) No vaccine is available for the treatment of Hepatitis. The vaccine for prevention of Hepatitis-'B' is available commercially in the market. Steps have been taken to encourage indigenous production and permission for commercial production has also been accorded to an indigenous manufacturer recently. Initiating a programme for vaccination against Hepatitis-'B' would depend on the availability of additional resources as the present outlays are inadequate for taking up such a programme.

Following measures are being taken to prevent viral Hepatitis :

- (i) Screening for Hepatitis-'B' is mandatory for all blood donations.
- (ii) Awareness building for promoting safe sex has been undertaken.
- (iii) Guidelines have been issued for the use of a separate sterile syringe and needle for each injection.
- (iv) Directions have been given for the immunisation of Central Government hospital personnel, who are at high risk, against Hepatitis-'B'.

State Governments have also been advised to take similar steps.

- (v) Intensive Health Education measures have been promoted inter-alia conveying message for use of safe drinking water and maintenance of environmental sanitation.

[English]

Satellite Usages

*314. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have ended state monopoly on satellite usage and ownership by allowing private firms to use INSAT transponders and permitting them to own satellites;

(b) if so, the rationale behind this decision;

(c) the commercial terms likely to be offered to non-Governmental users subject to capacity availability; and

(d) the manner in which the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) will facilitate allocation of frequencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) Satellites are used extensively for telephony, data, T.V. and Sound broadcasting and Mobile Services. Satellite Communications systems have become a fundamental infrastructure of the communications network in the country and hence needs to be properly regulated for orderly growth. Further, Indian Satellite Systems have to comply with the various United Nation and International Telecommunications Union treaties and other international agreements to which India is a Party. With this in view, the Government has decided upon a policy framework for satellite communications in India. The salient features of this policy are; (a) transponder capacity on Indian National Satellite (INSAT) system would be offered to non-Governmental users also on commercial terms subject to capacity availability; (b) Indian private parties will be permitted to establish commercial communication satellites and the parties will be assisted in registering such satellite systems and networks with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) as Indian Satellites; and (c) operations from Indian soil will be allowed with both Indian and foreign satellites in accordance with the norms and conditions to be evolved, but Indian satellites will be accorded preferential treatment. In so far as satellite based broadcasting is concerned, the various provisions of the Satellite Communications policy framework would conform to the proposed Broadcasting Law. It is expected that the enunciation of the policy framework will lead to the development of a healthy and thriving communications satellite and ground equipment industry as well as satellite communications service industry in India. This will also open the INSAT system for wider usage.

(c) and (d) Provision of capacity for Broadcasting purposes will conform to the proposed Broadcasting Law. INSAT capacity is already being made available on a commercial basis to licensed private VSAT service providers and Closed User Groups through the Department of Telecommunications. A licensed VSAT service provider also gets to use the frequency at which the transponder operates.

The annual space-segment charge for one full extended C-band transponder of 36 MHz bandwidth and 34 dBW satellite Equivalent Isotropic Radiated Power (EIRP) is Rs. 275 lakhs at present. The space-segment is kept reserved on pre-emptive basis from the date of